# GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
# ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE
# LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2222
ANSWERED ON:29.11.2016
Surface Water Pollution
Singh Shri Abhishek

**Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:**

(a) whether the Government has taken note of rise in surface water pollution due to discharge of waste in water bodies severely affecting the health of the people and causing various water borne diseases;
(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;
(c) whether the Government has set any norms to check the surface water pollution in the country and if so, the details thereof;
(d) whether the Government has put any mechanism in place to ensure proper implementation of the said norms; and
(e) the corrective action taken by the Government to curtail surface water pollution in the country?

## Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

(SHRI ANIL MADHAV DAVE)

(a)& (b) The rivers stretches are polluted mainly due to discharge of untreated / partially treated sewage and discharge of industrial wastewater. The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) in association with State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs) / Pollution Control Committees (PPCs) monitors the quality of water bodies at 2500 locations across the country under National Water Quality Monitoring Programme (NWQMP) whose data indicate that organic pollution is the predominant cause of water pollution. Based on the magnitude of organic pollution, CPCB, in 2008, identified 150 polluted river stretches which increased to 302 in 2015. Pollution could be one of the triggering factors for water borne diseases.

(c)&(d) The Government formulates and notifies standards for discharge of environmental pollutants into environmental media including surface water from industries, operations or processes. The standards are enforced by concerned State Pollution Control Board / Pollution Control Committee (SPCB/ PCC) through consent mechanism and through regular monitoring.

(e) The steps taken by the Government to address the issues of water pollution, inter alia, include the following:-
i. Preparation of action plan for sewage management and restoration of water quality in aquatic resources by State Governments;
ii. Installation of Online Effluent Monitoring System to check the discharge of effluent directly into the rivers and water bodies;
iii. Setting up of monitoring network for assessment of water quality;
iv. Action to comply with effluent standards is taken by State Pollution Control Boards / Pollution Control Committees (SPCBs / PCCs) to improve the water quality of the rivers;
v. Financial assistance for installation of Common Effluent Treatment Plants for cluster of Small Scale Industrial units;
vi. Issuance of directions for implementation of Zero Liquid Discharge;
vii. Issuance of directions under Section 5 of Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 to industries and under Section 18(1)(b) of Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974;
viii. Implementation of National River Conservation Plan (NRCP) for abatement of pollution in identified stretches of various rivers and undertaking conservation activities which inter-alia include interception & diversion of raw sewage, construction of sewerage systems, setting up of sewage treatment plants, low cost sanitation facilities, education and awareness creation, community participation, electric/improved wood crematoria and river front development.

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